

CHARLOTTE, N.C.
OBSERVER

M - 172,236
S - 196,616

APR 2 1967

LBJ May Pick UNC Student

By JAMES K. BATTEN
Observer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Robert M. Travis, the 21-year-old Georgian who has his hands full as newly elected student body president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, soon may be dealing with even weightier problems in Washington.

President Johnson has told friends that he plans to give Travis a seat on a new top-drawer committee that will determine whether a public-private mechanism can replace the system of secret subsidies dispensed until recently by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Travis, reached Saturday at his home in Lyons, Ga., where he is spending spring holidays, said he knew nothing of the President's intentions.

"But I certainly hope I get the appointment," he said. "I'd be delighted to serve."

Johnson's interest in Travis is largely due to Sen. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., who described him to the President as an outstanding young man with a very bright future.

Russell discussed Travis with the President at the White House a few days ago.

If Travis is appointed, he presumably will be regarded on the committee as a spokesman for the nation's students.

The President has said that the committee will include representatives from Congress, the executive branch and from private life.

The committee's task will be to find a way for the federal government to finance openly the sort of voluntary private groups, such as the National Student Association, that the CIA has been supporting covertly.

Johnson last week ordered an end to all covert support of such groups by any agency of the federal government.

Travis, a history major, plans a career in law. He was elected president of the Chapel Hill campus student government 10 days ago. He will take office early this week.

In his campaign, Travis said, he fought to keep the UNC student government affiliated with the National Student Association. There have been sporadic and unsuccessful attempts to take UNC out of NSA, the latest of them in the wake of recent disclosures that NSA was financed by the CIA.

The University at Chapel Hill, Travis said, was a charter member of NSA and its students were instrumental in NSA's creation in 1946.

But as for what the federal government should do now that the CIA's role as secret patron has been ended, Travis said he had no preconceived opinions.

P. Batten, James K.

Observer, Robert M.

CIA's Risk Committee